Trek Philosophy

Three broad topics:

- Philosophy of Star Trek (Roddenberry Vision)
- Philosophy in Star Trek (Particular social/political/philosophical issues within Star Trek episodes or movies)
- Philosophical issues raised by Star Trek (nature of consciousness, nature of reality, nature of knowledge, science and religion, etc.)

Philosophical Topics and Star Trek Episodes:

Epistemology:

- Rationalism
- Empiricism
- Pragmatism
- Idealism
- Phenomenology
- Foundationalism

Metaphysics:

- Materialism/Immaterialism
- Universals / Forms
- Philosophy of Mind (Dualism, Emergentism, Reductionism, Functionalism, Identity Theory, Behaviorism)
- Personal Identity
- Free Will / Determinism
- New Dualism (philosophical zombies)
- Time and Space

Ethics:

- Consequentialism/utilitarianism
- Kantianism / deontological ethics
- Virtue ethics
- Existentialism
- Moral relativism
- Egoism / altruism
- Special topics:
    - Economic justice
    - Environmental ethics

    - Equality and discrimination
    - Euthanasia
    - Feminist ethics / ethics of care
    - Globalization (or galactization / universalization!)
    - Punishment
    - Natural law and human rights
    - Sexual morality
    - Bioethics and bioengineering
    - Animal ethics
    - Abortion

Social and Political Philosophy:

- Social Contract Theory
- Plato and the Philosopher King
- Conceptions of Justice (process distributive justice, end-state distributive justice, equality of opportunity, social utility)
- Hegel and philosophy of history
- Individualism / collectivism
- War and terrorism (realism, militarism, pacifism, war crimes, enhanced interrogation, etc.)
- Human nature

Meaning of Life:

- Theism
- Nihilism
- Human progress
- Existentialism

Philosophy of Science:

- Verification / falsification
- Realism / antirealism
- Instrumentalism
- Logical positivism
- Paradigm shifts and scientific revolutions

Philosophy of Religion:

- Arguments for God's existence
- Rationality or irrationality of belief
- Hermeneutics
- Limits of Theology
- Critiques of Religion
- Problem of Divine Action
- Nature of God (omnipotence, omniscience, omnibenevolence)
- Immanence and transcendence (deism, pantheism, panentheism)

- Monotheism and polytheism
- Science and religion

Philosophy of Language:

- Reference theory of meaning
- Sense and reference
- Problem of translation
- Russell's theory of descriptions (applying this to alternate realities or parallel universes would be fascinating)
- Causal theory of reference
- Wittgenstein / language games
- Literal versus symbolic meaning